Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2014-17

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of February 12, 2014.

original signed by

Frank Oberle, Minister
February 19, 2014

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Aboriginal Relations. Within the department's budget, funding is provided to the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Northern Alberta Development Council, which are accountable to the minister. The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that promotes self-governance, certainty and respect within the Metis Settlements through adjudications, mediation and education. The Northern Alberta Development Council identifies and addresses strategic issues that impact growth in Northern Alberta.

A more detailed description of Aboriginal Relations and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca.

RESULTS-BASED BUDGETING AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC PLAN

Programs and services delivered by the ministry are reviewed for relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in accordance with the Government of Alberta's *Results-based Budgeting Act*.

This business plan supports the themes outlined in the *Government of Alberta Strategic Plan* in the following ways:

- Investing in Families and Communities. The ministry ensures Aboriginal people have opportunities to contribute to and benefit from Alberta's economic and social life.
- Securing Alberta's Economic Future. The ministry works with other ministries and organizations to increase the number of Aboriginal people at all education levels.
- Advancing World-leading Resource Stewardship. The ministry continues to build relationships with Aboriginal communities and people to ensure resource stewardship.

The plan supports the achievement of the following strategic goals set out in the government's strategic plan:

- Goal 1: Honour Alberta's Communities. The ministry enhances and promotes Aboriginal peoples' culture, history and modern aspirations.
- Goal 2: Support Vulnerable Albertans. The ministry is committed to building opportunities and providing supports for Aboriginal people to transition from rural to urban centres.
- Goal 4: Invest in Learning. The ministry helps engage Aboriginal people in lifelong learning.
- Goal 7: Build Relationships and Open New Markets. The ministry works to engage Aboriginal people so they are actively consulted as part of resource development.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The ministry continues to build on its relationships with Aboriginal communities. Relationship building occurs by travelling to communities to listen, see and understand problems and focus on creating solutions together with the community. Increasing the awareness of Aboriginal culture and history amongst ministries and the general public is an ongoing priority.

The Aboriginal political and legal landscape in Alberta is complex. Resource development, water management, economic opportunities and the legal duty to consult are all matters impacting Aboriginal people in Alberta. The ministry strives to maintain effective relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations and facilitate the involvement of other ministries and stakeholder groups to create strategies that advance Aboriginal social and economic circumstances. Other levels of government may establish formal agreements with the provincial government to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal people and communities.

A new focus for the ministry is Northern Alberta. The Northern Alberta Development Council will allow the ministry to begin focusing more on northern communities which offer unique challenges and opportunities including economic growth, community development, transportation, health services, resource development and balancing overall development with a good quality of life.

In June 2013, devastating floods took place in Southern Alberta and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Full recovery from the disasters will take years. The ministry, in cooperation with other ministries, supports the flood recovery and mitigation effort by assisting affected First Nations in rebuilding and repairing their homes and infrastructure. Rebuilding efforts include skills development opportunities for First Nations people. It is hoped that the rebuilding efforts will enhance long-term economic recovery for affected communities.

Moving forward, Aboriginal Relations will continue to strengthen relationships with other ministries and Aboriginal people, communities and organizations.

GOALS, PRIORITY INITIATIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As a result of the ministry's review of its goals, environment, opportunities and challenges, a number of priority initiatives have been identified. Focused agenda items, several specific areas where government will focus its attention over the next three years, are identified with a ✱. Additional government commitments to Albertans are identified with a ✓.

Goal One: Aboriginal communities and people fully participate in Alberta's economy and society

The ministry's activities support effective relationships, policies and initiatives as well as healthy, vibrant Aboriginal communities and people. The ministry provides leadership on Aboriginal policy and oversees agreements between the Government of Alberta and Aboriginal governments and organizations. By building relationships with other ministries, Aboriginal communities and organizations, industry, governments and other partners, Aboriginal Relations strengthens economic and social opportunities for Aboriginal people in Alberta. Aboriginal Relations provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other ministries, governments and industry and collaborates with Aboriginal communities and organizations to support skills development. The ministry also administers Alberta's Metis Settlements legislation and the First Nations Development Fund, and funds Metis Settlements governance entities.

Priority Initiatives:

✱1.1 Work with Siksika and Stoney First Nations to implement flood recovery initiatives and policy.

1.2 Lead the Government of Alberta in enhancing collaboration with First Nations through renewed mechanisms for the premier and ministers to engage with First Nations on a government-to-government basis.

1.3 Strengthen strategic partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, governments, industry and others to address barriers and improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people including implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations Education in collaboration with the Government of Canada and the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs in Alberta.

1.4 Support Aboriginal economic development through dialogue and engagement to increase Aboriginal capacity to participate in the workforce and economy, and help to strengthen Alberta's competitiveness by working with Aboriginal communities on new initiatives to provide for economic opportunities and improve socio-economic outcomes.

1.5 Support improved outcomes for urban Aboriginal people through policy development and collaboration with other ministries, Aboriginal organizations, other governments and private and non-profit sector partners, including the implementation of the Urban Aboriginal Integrated Service Delivery Approach.

1.6 Foster continued improvement in socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal women through collaboration with other ministries and the recommendations and guidance from the Métis and First Nations Women's Councils on Economic Security.

1.7 Work with the Metis Settlements General Council to implement long-term governance and funding arrangements that focus on objectives of effective governance, enhanced accountability and sustainability.

1.8 Administer the First Nations Development Fund to support economic, social and community development projects.

1.9 Through the Alberta/Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA) Framework Agreement, work with the MNAA and other ministries to increase economic opportunities and enhance community and individual well-being of Métis people.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17
1.a Economic initiatives: • Number of Aboriginal strategic economic development initiatives, partnerships and capacity building projects[1]	49	34	37	40

Note:

1 The higher 2012-13 result reflects an overall strategic approach to increase the number of partners working together to enhance Aboriginal economic participation. The 2014-15 target is consistent with the average of actual results over the last five years.

Goal Two: Alberta's coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation and land claims enhances resource development certainty

The province has a duty to consult when constitutionally protected rights may be adversely affected by Crown decisions on land management and resource development. To ensure the duty to consult is met, the ministry operates the expanded Aboriginal Consultation Office which centralizes much of the Government of Alberta's functions in relation to Aboriginal consultation and leads the implementation of the revised First Nations Consultation Policy. The ministry also supports First Nations to enhance their capacity to participate in land management and resource development consultations. This includes the development of GeoData maps with First Nations' input to help guide decisions related to consultation on resource development projects and facilitate more consistent notification for consultation. Lastly, the ministry coordinates Alberta's participation in settling Treaty Land Entitlement claims. These initiatives support land management and resource development certainty, increased First Nations capacity and greater economic competitiveness.

Priority Initiatives:

✱2.1 Implement the revised Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development to increase the effectiveness of the consultation process.

✓2.2 Work with First Nations on a government-to-government basis, and with industry and other ministries to better coordinate and support resource development and land management consultation activities.

2.3 Work with other governments to identify and address consultation challenges.

2.4 Support consultation capacity and work with First Nations to enhance their participation in land management and resource development consultations through the *Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act*.

2.5 Ensure the Aboriginal Consultation Office promotes efficiency, coordination and fairness in the delivery of resource development consultation services.

2.6 Support alignment and harmonization of consultation services with the Alberta Energy Regulator and the Integrated Resource Management System.

2.7 Work with other ministries, the federal government and First Nations towards resolution of land-related negotiations, in particular Treaty Land Entitlement claims for which Alberta has an obligation under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17
2.a Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map developed to support the consultation process	0%	60%	90%	92%

OPERATIONAL PLAN

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable					
	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Forecast	**2014-15 Estimate**	2015-16 Target	2016-17 Target
OPERATIONAL EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	3,802	4,222	4,222	**4,635**	4,635	4,648
First Nations and Métis Relations	18,245	23,536	23,536	**33,628**	33,628	33,693
Aboriginal Women's Initiatives and Research	-	-	-	**604**	604	608
First Nations Development Fund	120,209	129,500	129,500	**143,000**	145,000	147,000
Metis Settlements Ombudsman	636	-	-	**-**	-	-
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,145	1,197	1,197	**1,204**	1,204	1,211
Consultation and Land Claims	14,062	13,737	13,737	**16,683**	16,783	16,868
Policy and Planning	1,002	1,202	1,202	**1,210**	1,210	1,218
2013 Alberta Flooding	-	-	192,829	**4,960**	-	-
Land and Legal Settlement	-	-	-	**-**	8,400	-
Total	159,101	173,394	366,223	**205,924**	211,464	205,246

CAPITAL PLAN SPENDING

Ministry Support Services	37	25	13	**25**	25	25